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**SACRED HEART ACADEMY STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE KENTUCKY GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 21, 2011) — In its 26th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Emma Brink of Sacred Heart Academy as its 2010-11 Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Brink is the first Gatorade Kentucky Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Sacred Heart Academy.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the track, distinguishes Brink as Kentucky's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Brink joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

A three-time Gatorade Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year and a three-time Gatorade Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year, the 5-foot-8 senior won three individual state championships for the third consecutive season this spring and led the Valkyries to the Class 3A state title as a team. Brink won the 800 meters with a time of 2:14.81, the 1600 meters in 5:03.73 and the 3200 meters in 11:12.96. The three-time KYtrackXC.com Distance Runner of the Year never lost a race to an in-state competitor. Only one other athlete nationwide—Kennebunk High (Maine) senior-to-be Abbey Leonardi—has won Gatorade State Player of the Year honors six times in the award program's 26-year history.

Brink has maintained a 3.91 GPA in the classroom. A member of her school's Beta Club and her local Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter, she has volunteered in the area as a tutor for at-risk children and as an elementary school track coach.

"What runner can say they never lost a race in their state and won a total of 13 state championships and two team championships," said Donna Moir, athletic director at Sacred Heart Academy. "I think what she has done is awesome. The best part about Emma is that I do not think we have seen the best of her yet. She has the potential to be a world-class runner."

Brink has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at the University of North Carolina beginning this fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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